

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIDNEY SOBER, USDEL PREPCON

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ABU DHABI BEIRUT DHAHRAN
DOHA ISLAMABAD JIDDA LONDON MANAMA MUSCAT NEW DELHI OTTAWA
PARIS TEHRAN VIENNA BAGHDAD EC BRUSSELS FROM KUWAIT
06 APR 75:

QUOTE UNCLAS KUWAIT 1499

VIENNA FOR USMISSION IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT PEACEFUL ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM

1. KUWAIT'S MINISTER ELECTRICITY AND WATER ABDULLAH
ALGHANIM HELD PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 2 IN WHICH HE MADE MOST
FORTHRIGHT PUBLIC STATEMENT YET OF GOK'S INTENTION TO ESTABLISH
NUCLEAR PLANTS HERE BOTH FOR ELECTRIC POWER AND WATER DESALTING
PURPOSES. HE STRESSED GOK INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES IN REGION, AND HE INDICATED CONTACTS UNDERWAY WITH
SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

2. ALGHANIM SAID PRELIMINARY CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED
WITH BAHRAIN AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT AND NUCLEAR POWER WATER DISTILLATION PLANT. HE
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NOTED COOPERATION IN THIS AREA WAS ONE OF TOPICS DISCUSSED

RECENTLY WHEN KUWAIT CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-AHMAD VISITED SAUDI ARABIA. ALGHANIM ALSO REFERRED TO CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTERPARTS IN US, CANADA AND EUROPE AS WELL AS WITH OFFICIALS IN ARAB COUNTRIES, PAKISTAN AND INDIA. HE SAID DR. MUNIR KHAN OF PAKISTAN AEC AND DR. MARCHALL, DESCRIBED AS A LEADING BRITISH NUCLEAR EXPERT, WILL BE VISITING KUWAIT LATER THIS MONTH FOR TALKS. CHAIRMAN INDIAN AEC ALSO EXPECTED VISIT KUWAIT. GOK HAS INVITED IRANIAN ENERGY MINISTER TO VISIT BUT SO FAR HAS NOT RECEIVED REPLY.

3. NOTING KUWAITI MEMBERSHIP IN IAEA, ALGHANIM STRESSED GOK'S PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN PURSUING NUCLEAR ROUTE. HE SAID GOVERNMENT STUDIES INDICATE THAT LOCAL ENERGY SOURCES, I.E., GAS, LIKELY TO BE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET KUWAIT'S NEEDS IN FUTURE. GOK THINKS NUCLEAR ENERGY COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY CHEAPER FOR POWER GENERATION THAN ALTERNATIVES. ALGHANIM DISCOUNTED POLLUTION PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS BEING MANAGEABLE. HE INDICATED GOK INTEREST IN TRAINING KUWAITIS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ALGHANIM SAID GOK NOT CONCERNED OVER IRAN'S PLANS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ENERGY ON LARGE SCALE. HE SAID ALL COUNTRIES IN REGION VERY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR ENERGY TO SATISFY THEIR POWER NEEDS IN FUTURE.

5. COMMENT BY SEPTTEL (NOTAL). STOLTZFUS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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